

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-10 and 19-21 are pending. Withdrawn claims 11-18 are canceled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 17 and 18 were previously canceled. Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, and 10 are amended, and claims 19-21 are added. Claims 1 and 21 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Since the Examiner has made no rejection to claim 10, claim 10 is presumed to be allowable, provided the objections related to the specification and the drawings are overcome. See arguments to overcome the objections to the specification and the drawings below.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has made the Restriction Requirement final, and based on a telephone conversation with the Applicant's representative, Carl T. Thomsen, Reg. No. 50,786, Applicants elected Group I, claims 1-10 for initial examination. This election is hereby affirmed.

The Examiner has withdrawn claims 11-16 from consideration. Withdrawn claims 11-16 are hereby canceled. The Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to claims 11-16 at a later date if so desired.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

The Examiner has not acknowledged the Applicant's claim for foreign priority. Clarification is requested in the next official communication.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 17, 2003.

OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS, THE SPECIFICATION, AND THE CLAIMS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings, the specification and claim 10, alleging that "stop" is not disclosed in the specification.

In order to overcome these objections, the Applicant has amended claim 10 to include water spray head is provided with a valve for individually activating the water spray head, depending on a potential fire scenario.

Valve 17 is clearly disclosed in paragraph [0037] and FIG. 2.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are respectfully requested.

SPECIFICATION CHANGE

The Applicant has voluntarily amended paragraph [0003] of the specification to correct a minor typographical error.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(B) AND 103(A)

Claims 1-5 and 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lauderback et al. (U.S. 2,928,611), and claims 6, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lauderback et al. as applied to claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 above, and further in view of Sundholm (U.S. 5,513,708). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 1 AND 21

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a water spray head for spraying water in a fire prevention system, including

a spray head bottom extending beneath a lower portion of the spray head upper body;
and at least two rings of nozzles are installed on the spray head bottom,

wherein the spray head bottom has a "w" shape when viewed from a side sectional view,

In addition, independent claim 21 is added herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a water spray head for spraying water in a fire prevention system, including

a spray head bottom extending beneath a lower portion of the spray head upper body;
and at least two rings of nozzles are installed on the spray head bottom,

wherein the spray head bottom has a “w” shape when viewed from a side sectional view, so that a first slant face of the spray head bottom faces outwardly and downwardly, and a second slant surface of the spray head bottom faces inwardly and downwardly.

By contrast, as can be seen in Lauderback et al. FIGS. 1 and 2, this document merely discloses a stem 18 with a flat pattern determining head 12, and fails to teach or suggest either

a spray head bottom having a “w” shape when viewed from a side sectional view, or a first slant face of the spray head bottom faces outwardly and downwardly, and a second slant surface of the spray head bottom faces inwardly and downwardly, as presently claimed.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 21 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Lauderback et al., at least for the reasons explained above.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 21 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 5, 9, and 10 are amended to place them in better form, and dependent claims 19-20 are added to set forth additional novel features of the invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

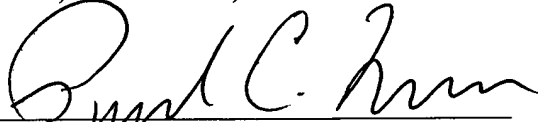
Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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